

# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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U.S. Embassy, Ankara – Public Affairs



## Turkish Alumni at the Mary Wilson Concert

Mary Wilson, a founding member of the famous “Supremes” vocal trio, performed in Turkey from February 19-23. Together with three of her band members, Mary gave concerts in Izmir, Ankara, Adana and Mersin, while also doing workshops and raising awareness about African American culture. In Ankara, Mary performed for the public at the Jolly Joker Club on the evening of February 20 and many Turkish alumni of various U.S. exchange programs participated in the concert and had a great time.



## SUSI Alumni and American English Teaching Assistants met in Gaziantep

U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Katherine Van De Vate, Study of United States Institutes (SUSI) program alumni and American English Teaching Assistants met at a dinner in Gaziantep on January 30, 2014. During the dinner, SUSI alumni shared their stories on how the exchange program impacted both their personal and professional lives.



## Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program Alumni Reunion

Around 25 Humphrey alumni met at the annual dinner of the Turkish Humphrey Alumni Association. Each participant talked about their U.S. experience and how it contributed to his/her personal and professional development.

## 2013 Alumni Small Grants Competition Winners

- **Breast Health Peer Education Program**, Ayşe Feza Şengel, Alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program on Health, 2009.
- **Empowering the Community Leaders to Act in Mardin**, Hakkı Ayaz, Alumnus of Young Turkey/Young America Program on Foreign Policy, 2010.
- **Increasing Pre-School Children Awareness of Nature and Sustainable Environment** [in progress], Banu Öztürk Kurtaslan, Alumna of Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program on Landscape Architecture, 2010.
- **Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship Support and Development Foundation** [in progress], Yeşim Aslı Toduk, Fulbright Foreign Student Program on Business, 1987.



### Alumni Project: Empowering Community Leaders to Act in Mardin

Hakkı Ayaz, 2010 YTYA alumnus, brought together local authorities and NGO and opinion leaders with Syrian asylum seekers and refugees to undertake various social, cultural and educational activities.

Syrian asylum seekers and refugees received Turkish literacy courses, guidance sessions about how to access authorized legal bodies for basic humanitarian aid, health care and shelters. The project also incorporated counseling sessions to address post war-trauma issues and public awareness meetings to draw attention to the humanitarian situation.

The US Embassy in Ankara supported Hakkı's project with an alumni grant.

For more info: [www.ikgder.com](http://www.ikgder.com)



### Alumni Project: Breast Health Peer Education

Ayşe Feza Şengel, 2009 IVLP alumna, received an alumni grant for her project called "Breast Health Peer Education Program" from the U.S. Embassy, Ankara. Ayşe designed the program to increase awareness of breast cancer risk factors relevant to teens and the importance of early detection. The program promoted positive youth development by providing future nurses an opportunity to share accurate knowledge about breast health with their peers, communities and families.

Nursing students from Validebağ Anadolu Sağlık Meslek Lisesi participated in the "Train the Trainer" training. Afterwards, volunteer nursing students who had taken the training trained their peers at Çengelköy High School on October 24, 2013. Each student received pre-and post-tests and an awareness kit (a mini brochure and pink bracelet). In total, Ayşe's project reached 993 students.

For more info: <http://www.memekanseri.org/peer-education/4576001682>



## Outstanding YES student, Aleyna Bakirli from Turkey, receives an honorable mention

Honorable Mention goes to Aleyna Bakirli from Turkey, who has been an outstanding Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) ambassador since she arrived in Marshalltown, Iowa in August 2013. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Aleyna also excels in community service, and completed 124 hours.

The World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa, conducts a Global Youth Institute that invites students from around the country to share their research on improving food

security. Aleyna was chosen to attend the three-day event in October because of her outstanding paper on climate change and its impact on Turkey. Aleyna was also selected to participate in the Civic Education Workshop in Washington DC. She worked as a social media specialist during the workshop and shared her experiences on her blog: <http://civedworkshop14.blogspot.com/>

## Alumni share their U.S. exchange experiences with video clips

[Please click the links to watch videos]



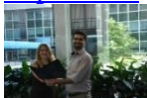
[Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow Çisem Dinçer shared her views about her exchange program](#)



[Turkish & Armenian Summer Teaching Institute \(TASTI\) alumnus Servet Altan talked about his exchange program](#)



[International Visitor Leadership Alumnus Salih Yüce shared his view about his U.S. Exchange Experience](#)



[International Visitor Leadership Alumnus Ufuk Atalay shared his views about his U.S. Exchange Experience](#)



## Register to become a member of International Exchange Alumni Website!

International Exchange Alumni Website -- A place where past and present U.S. government-sponsored exchange program participants find tools to advance their communities and our world. **Benefits of Joining:** Alumni Directory, Job Center, Grants, Events, Research Tools. [View all benefits](#)



**ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT  
INNOVATION FUND 2014**

## Announcing AEIF 2014!

AEIF 2014 competition will begin on April 1st! The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) provides opportunities for exchange alumni to implement local projects that address global issues. Learn more about the AEIF 2014 competition: Click the link [Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2014](#)